

February 2011

Black History Month

An informational activity booklet

Grades 3 - 8

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MILES DAVIS



Miles Dewey Davis (May 26, 1926 – September 28, 1991) was an American trumpeter, bandleader, and composer.

He is considered by many to be one of the most influential musicians of the 20th century. He organized several successful jazz groups, and also had a thriving solo career.

He is known for inventing a more subtle, yet still challenging style of music that became known as "cool jazz."

This style influenced a large group of musicians who played primarily on the west coast and further explored this style. The recordings of the nonet were packaged by Capitol records and released under the name "The Birth of the Cool."

The group featured Lee Konitz, Gerry Mulligan, and Max Roach, among others.

This was one of the first instances in which Miles demonstrated a recurring move that angered some: he brought in musicians regardless of race. He once said he'd give a guy with green skin and "polka-dotted breath" a job, as long as they could play the saxophone.

Image: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miles_Davis

Sojourner Truth



Sojourner Truth was a preacher, abolitionist and activist for the rights of blacks and women. She was born into slavery in New York, but escaped with her infant daughter in 1826.

She delivered a well-known speech "Ain't I a Woman?" in 1851 at the Ohio Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio. During the Civil War she helped recruit black soldiers for the Union army.

Truth worked for the National Freedman's Relief Association in Washington, D.C., where she worked diligently to improve conditions for African-Americans. In October of that year, she met President Abraham Lincoln

In 1870, Truth tried to secure land grants from the federal government to former slaves, a project she pursued for seven years without success.

Truth spoke about abolition, women's rights, prison reform, and preached to the Michigan Legislature against capital punishment.

Sojourner Truth Word Find

AUCTION
 DUTCH
 ISABELALLA
 PRAY
 SLAVE
 SPEECH
 BEATINGS
 EMANCIPATED
 LINCOLN
 PRESIDENT
 SOJOURNER
 TALL
 CELLAR
 EXPERIENCE
 MASTER
 RELIGIOUS
 SOLD
 TRUTH

D	L	P	F	G	R	O	I	T	R	E	N	B
F	E	W	S	A	L	S	G	E	E	C	Z	H
N	B	T	L	P	A	L	N	M	L	N	Z	D
G	L	L	A	B	E	R	A	S	I	E	C	T
Z	E	O	E	P	U	E	L	T	G	I	A	R
C	J	L	C	O	I	A	C	Y	I	R	N	U
S	L	H	J	N	V	C	A	H	O	E	O	T
A	Z	O	A	E	I	R	N	H	U	P	I	H
G	S	B	Z	X	P	L	E	A	S	X	T	D
P	R	E	S	I	D	E	N	T	M	E	C	L
S	G	N	I	T	A	E	B	M	N	E	U	O
M	A	S	T	E	R	H	C	T	U	D	A	S
L	K	F	I	E	U	W	L	W	D	V	P	P

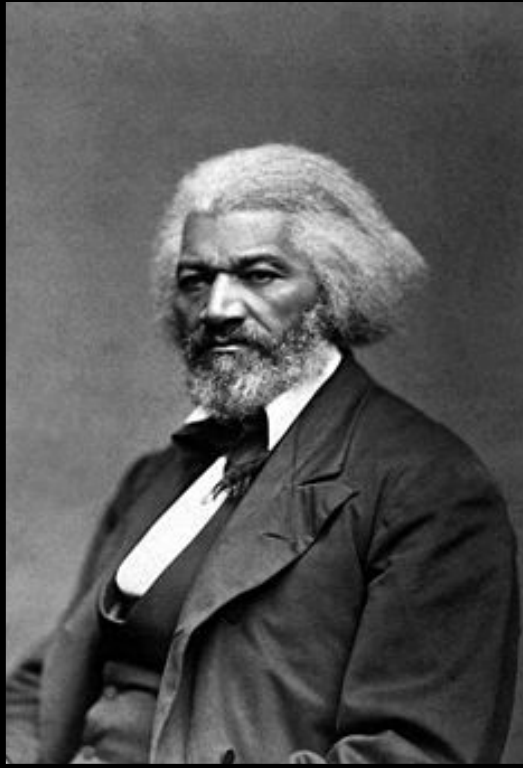
Alphabetical Order

Write these words in alphabetical order:

meager, editorialize, angular, auction, idyllic,
 emancipate, slave, cruel, freedom, woman

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Frederick Douglass



Frederick Douglass was born a slave in Maryland. From the time he was young he wanted to experience life outside the plantation he was born on. After he learned to read he escaped.

As an adult, Douglass joined the abolitionist movement, which meant that he was working to abolish, or end, slavery.

He wrote books about his life as a slave, and how it felt to be free. Frederick Douglass also published newspapers and made a living traveling the world and lecturing on the injustices of slavery and racism.

After the Civil War, he supported the women's suffrage movement and fought for the rights of freedmen.

Douglass was a firm believer in the equality of all people, whether black, female, Native American, or recent immigrant. He was often quoted saying, "I would unite with anybody to do right and with nobody to do wrong."

Image: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_Douglass

If there is no struggle, there is no progress.

-Frederick Douglass

If you were Frederick Douglass and were going to write an article in your paper that spoke out about slavery, what would you say? Write a paragraph expressing your opinion and why you feel that way.

Fill in the blanks!

Use the word bank to fill in the blanks to this story about Frederick Douglass.

Confederacy · father · office ·
abolish · Lincoln · slave · writer ·
slavery · first · former · Massa-
chusetts · civil · North · Great ·
newspaper



Coloring sheet: www.supercoloring.com/pages/frederick-douglass/

Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey Douglass (Feb. 7, 1817-Feb. 20, 1895) was an abolitionist, orator and _____ who fought against slavery and for women's rights. Douglass was the _____ African-American citizen appointed to _____ of high rank in the U.S. government.

Douglass was born into slavery; his mother was a _____ and his _____ was white. In 1838, he escaped slavery in Maryland and moved _____ to _____, where he soon became an international figure in the fight against slavery. Douglass lectured extensively against _____ in the U.S. and in _____ Britain. During the _____ War, Douglass met with U.S. President Abraham _____ many times, discussing Lincoln's efforts to _____ slavery and the arming of _____ slaves to fight the _____.

In 1847, Douglass started an anti-slavery _____ called the North Star (it was later called Frederick Douglass's Paper); it was published until 1860. Douglass served as the assistant secretary of the Santo Domingo Commission (1871). He was later appointed marshal (1877-81) and recorder of deeds (1881-86) of Washington, D.C. His last government appointment was as the U.S. minister and consul general to Haiti (1889-91). Douglass' autobiography, "Life and Times of Frederick Douglass," was published in 1882.

Frederick Douglass



Frederick Douglass

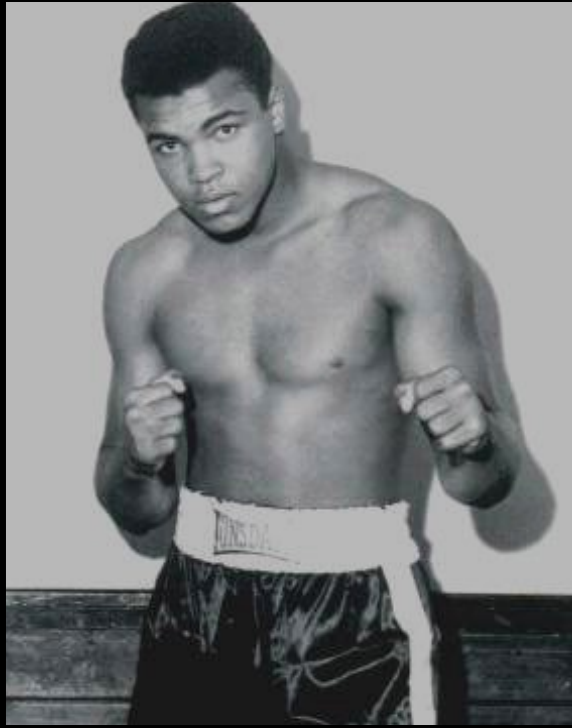
Frederick Douglass was a leader in the abolitionist movement, which fought to end slavery within the United States in the time leading up to the Civil War. Douglass was born a slave, but he escaped to the North, where slavery did not exist. He helped create an anti-slavery newspaper called *The North Star*.

Word scramble!

Unscramble the letters to form the word that completes the sentence.

1. Douglass sometimes gave President _____ advice. LILNONC
2. He wanted to give African-Americans the right to _____. TVEO
3. Douglass was ambassador to the nation of _____. IAHIT

Muhammad Ali



Muhammad Ali was born Cassius Clay on January 17, 1942 in Louisville, Kentucky. He changed his name to Muhammad Ali when he joined the Nation of Islam.

He is considered one of the best championship boxers of all time. As a three-World Heavyweight Champion, and Olympic gold medalist, he was nicknamed "The Greatest."

Ali was involved in several historic boxing matches. Notable among these are three with rival Joe Frazier and one with George Foreman, whom he beat by knockout to win the world heavyweight title for the second time.

He became a cultural icon, due in large part to his unique fighting style, which he described as "float like a butterfly, sting like a bee" and pre-match hype, where he would trash-talk his opponent before a match.

Image: cyberboxingzone.com/boxing/alirec.htm

MLNTBDVQRAAXSX CAYREF
BPNHNPHCSRXLVJXDJZOU
MPQTWLDTQJNVSHDITRDS
TPMGDQBUFTHCNYZZMEFT
KHXNENMPMNI VOHQAOXGE
SCP IUGWGEPLHTMNJIRWE
YDOTP JGWMKYASF E FYKYB
FLESQXUYDYPUILVKZNUL
LZFMNULIMNHGLMCGNSJA
UNLRMOKOANKI IUEACEJP
KUOOEASALOVLTG I LGVIM
NRAAPTHNSSSNRTOIUORA
EYTRDJTOIUEOSCALELHX
LDAMMAHUMKEIFDRXDGLT
CNLFKWONBGREATESTEVA
YRLZJLLUDHJANUARYYNE
CGSUISSACHAMPIONRWLE
IQBHEDXLTYVZNI BJGKFA
BOXINGAFRAZIERAAYQMK
OHHVUYMZ ZUXGACYLMBMH

"Hating people because of their color is wrong. And it doesn't matter which color is doing the hating. It's just plain wrong."

Muhammad Ali

ALI
BEE
BICYCLE
BOXING
BUTTERFLY
CASSIUS
CHAMPION
CHRISTIAN
CLAY
FLOAT
FORMAN

FRAZIER
GEORGE
GLOVES
GOLD
GOLDEN
GREATEST
ISLAM
JANUARY
JOE
KENTUCKY
LISTON

FEBRUARY
15

Today in 1978

Muhammad Ali lost his heavyweight boxing title to U.S. Olympic champion Leon Spinks in a 15-round decision at Las Vegas, Nevada.

- On March 18, the World Boxing Council withdrew its recognition of Spinks and awarded the title to Ken Norton.
- Norton lost the title to Larry Holmes on June 9 in a 15-round decision at Las Vegas.
- Ali regained the World Boxing Association title on September 15 by winning an easy 15-round decision over Spinks in the Superdome in New Orleans.

Word of the day

humble pie A pie formerly made from the edible organs of a deer or hog.
idiom: **eat humble pie**. To be forced to admit one's faults in humiliating circumstances;
from the Latin *lumbulus* (loin) + pie

Quote of the day



"At home I am a nice guy; but I don't want the world to know. Humble people, I've found, don't get very far."
Muhammad Ali

Imagine...

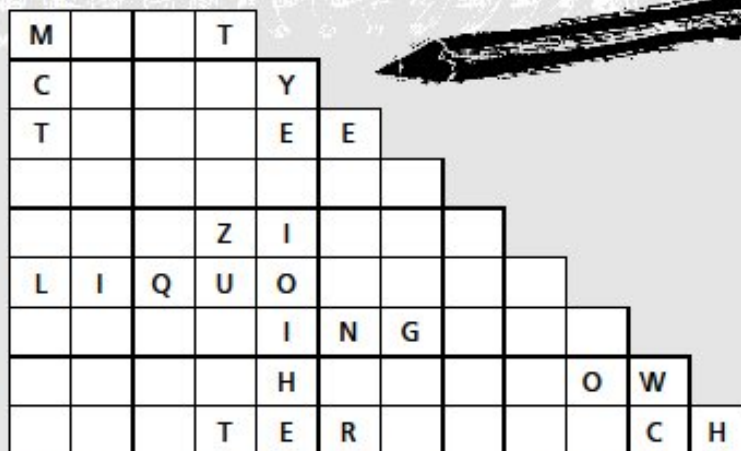
You are getting ready for your weigh-in before a big boxing match. The TV cameras will be there, and you want to come up with some lines like those of Muhammad Ali: "float like a butterfly, sting like a bee." You want to let your opponent know that he/she should be prepared to "eat humble pie"—and that it will not be sweet. Prepare about six lines that you can use to make your opponent fearful of your expertise.

Activity of the day

A sweet puzzle

Here are 14 words. Just place them correctly in the squares, and you will have nine sweets.

AND, BUT, CHEW, CORN, GUM, IN, MALL, MAR, MARS, OFF, PAN, POP, RICE, SCOT



Answers: mint, candy, toffee, popcorn, marzipan, liquorice, chewing gum, marshmallow, butter scotch

Oprah Winfrey



Oprah Winfrey is an American television host, actress, producer, and philanthropist, best known for her self-titled, multi-award winning talk show, which has become the highest-rated program of its kind in history.

She has been ranked the richest African American of the 20th century, the greatest black philanthropist in American history, and at one point and was once the world's only black billionaire.

In addition to her talk show, she also has a magazine called "O," and heads various philanthropic efforts. She is so influential that a phenomenon known as "The Oprah Effect" is known to occur when she endorses a person or product; that person or product will skyrocket to fame or

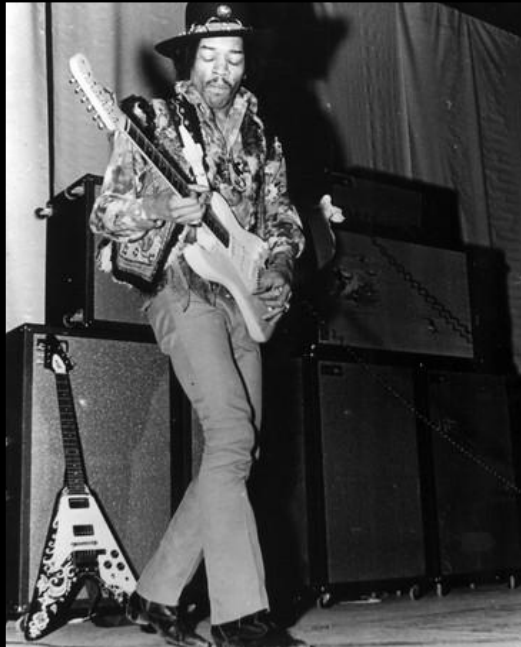
"I know for sure that what you give comes back to you."

Oprah Winfrey

W S R V R C G K O G A C I H C
Q S Q E N S E N C P Y T N C O
U E T M N B U L C K O O B I H
K D Y E J I I D F K S E D M I
Q I F M D C Z X W E W A J Q O
T A G O C M U A V V R L Y E M
M Y I G P W A I G L I Y L E B
A V M C F R T N O A Z E W K P
C C B I B A A V G V M W P U D
Y E R F N I W H A R P O B A Y
O R I X Z A S R Y V A A X W I
X D E V O L E B Q G C H U L C
K D R M H F D V V J H T A I B
Q U C K O S C I U S K O W M I
K R N S X O P K B X W E M Y X

Beloved
Book Club
Chicago
Gail
Harpo
Kosciusko
Milwaukee
Nativeson
O Magazine
Oprah Winfrey
Stedman Graham
WVOL Radio

Jimi Hendrix



Jimi Hendrix was born in Seattle, Washington, on November 27, 1942. When he was 13 his father taught him to play an acoustic guitar. After a brief time in the military, he moved to New York and began his professional music career.

He is widely considered to be the greatest electric guitarist in musical history, and one of the most influential musicians of his era across a range of genres.

Hendrix won many of the most prestigious rock music awards in his lifetime, and has been posthumously awarded many more, including being inducted into the US Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1992 and the UK Music Hall of Fame in 2005.

Image: www.jimihendrix.com

Louis Armstrong

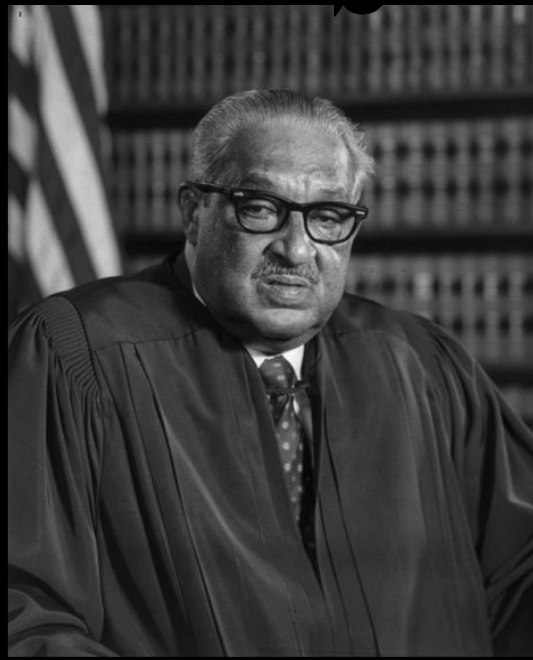


Louis Armstrong (August 4, 1901 – July 6, 1971) was an American singer, songwriter and Jazz trumpeter from New Orleans, Louisiana. He helped transform the genre of Jazz music from being largely collective improvisation to solo performance. Armstrong was also an influential singer, demonstrating great dexterity as an improviser, bending the lyrics and melody of a song for expressive purposes. He was also greatly skilled at scat singing, which means vocalizing using sounds and syllables instead of actual lyrics.

Armstrong was one of the first truly popular African-American entertainers to "cross-over," whose skin-color was secondary to his amazing talent in an America that was severely racially divided. It allowed him socially-acceptable access to the upper echelons of American society that were highly restricted for a person of color. While he rarely publicly politicized his race, often to the dismay of fellow African-Americans, he was privately a huge supporter of the Civil Rights movement in America.

Image: <http://www.last.fm/music/Louis+Armstrong/+images/193900>

Thurgood Marshall



Thurgood Marshall (July 2, 1908 – January 24, 1993) was an American jurist and the first African American to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States. Before becoming a judge, he was a lawyer who was best remembered for his high success rate in arguing before the Supreme Court and for the victory in *Brown v. Board of Education*, which made it illegal for public schools to segregate based on race. He was nominated to the court by President Lyndon Johnson in 1967.

On November 30, 1993, Justice Marshall was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton.

Image and text: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thurgood_Marshall

None of us got where we are solely by pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps. We got here because somebody—a parent, a teacher, and Ivy League crony or a few nuns, bent down and helped us pick up our boots.

-Thurgood Marshall

S E G R E G A T I O N S A
J U D G E S H A D K N M G
J Q P X D U G E E O W T I
F W K R R R N E B L S N D
L A L G E T O B A A V A Y
E L O T I M N J T A D H T
C O A S V H E S E E U P I
D V T H I P N C D D G M L
D V S L S A C X O J Z U A
D N B E I R I A J U O I U
F G C V I J A M A Z R R Q
J D I S C R I M I N A T E
D V K K W D L A W Y E R Q

DEBATED
DENTIST
DISCRIMINATE
EQUALITY
JUDGE
LAW
LAWYER
MARSHALL
NAACP
SEGREGATION
SUPREMECOURT
THURGOOD
TRIUMPHANT
VIVIAN

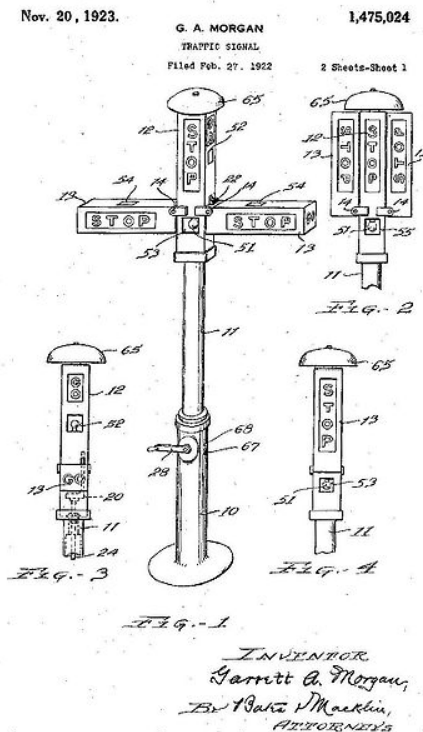
Garrett A. Morgan



Garrett A. Morgan was an African American inventor credited with inventing the modern traffic signal, a respiratory protective hood similar to today's gas masks, and a hair-straightening regimen.

He is renowned for a heroic rescue in which he used his hood to save workers trapped in a tunnel system filled with fumes. He is credited as the first African-American in Cleveland to own an automobile.

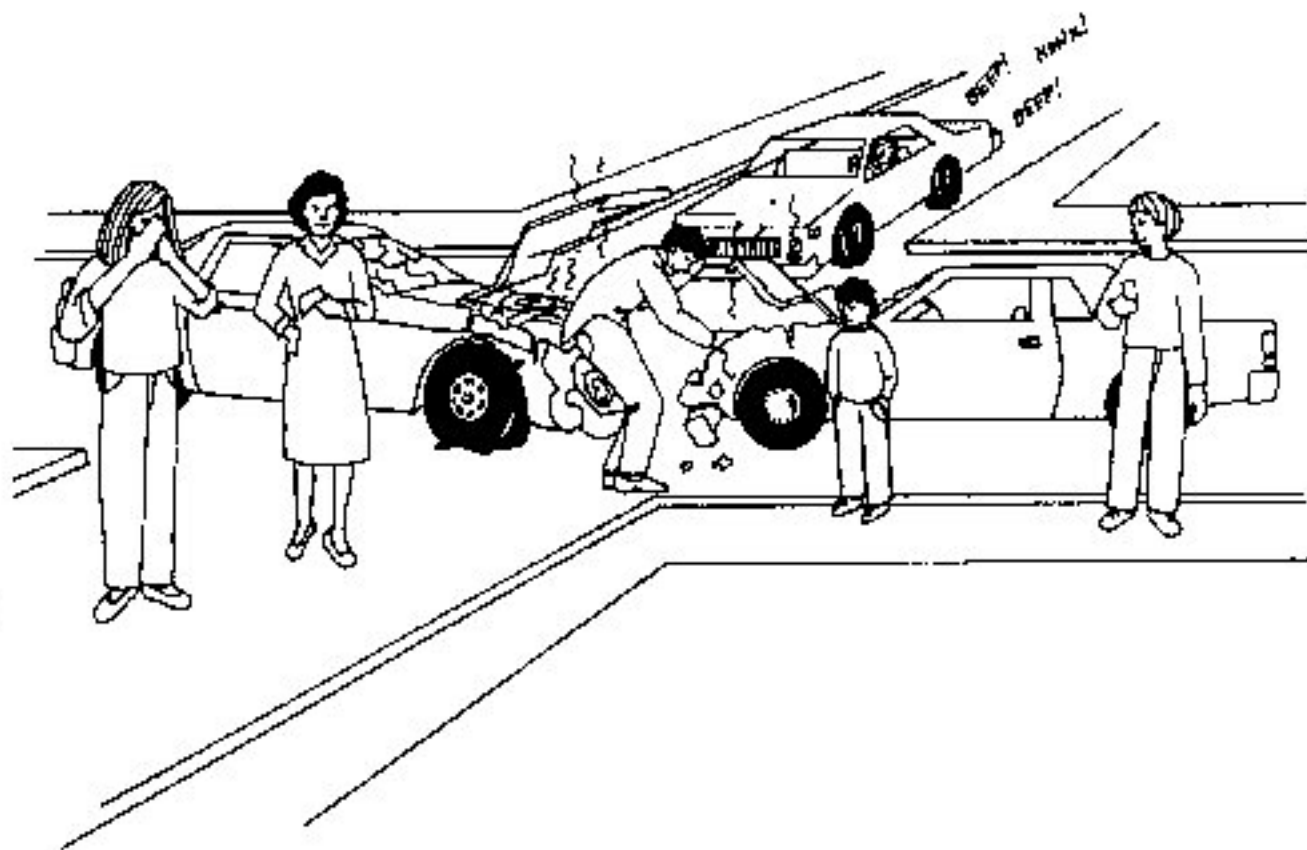
Images: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garrett_Morgan



The first American-made automobiles were introduced to consumers just before the turn of the 20th Century, and pedestrians, bicycles, animal-drawn wagons and motor vehicles all had to share the same roads. Between 1913 and 1921, many different versions of electric traffic signals were invented and installed throughout the U.S.A. In 1923, Garrett Morgan patented his own version. The Morgan traffic signal was a non-electric, T-shaped pole unit that featured three hand-cranked positions: Stop, in all-directional stop position. This third position halted traffic in all directions to allow pedestrians to cross streets more safely. It was never put into production. Its one advantage over other semaphore types was the ability to operate it from a distance using a mechanical linkage, though there were already dozens of automatic systems patented and in use by 1923.

Garrett A. Morgan Invents Traffic Light

Until Garrett A. Morgan invented the traffic light, drivers had to guess at the right time to drive across the street. Color the picture of the accident and the angry people.



Circle the words that tell how it was for drivers **BEFORE** the invention of the traffic light:

SAFE UNSAFE FUN SCARY GUESSWORK ANGER



Maya Angelou



Maya Angelou was among the first African American women to write a bestselling novel. "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" recounts her traumatic experience while visiting her mother and her years in Arkansas

She is a poet, historian, author, actress, playwright, civil-rights activist, producer and director. Angelou has published twelve best-selling books of poetry and prose and numerous magazine articles, for which she earned her Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award nominations. At the request of President Bill Clinton, she composed and delivered a poem at the 1993 presidential inauguration.

Images: http://www.womenscouncil.org/cd_web/Angelou.html

Touched by an Angel

We, unaccustomed to courage
exiles from delight
live coiled in shells of loneliness
until love leaves its high holy temple
and comes into our sight
to liberate us into life.

Love arrives
and in its train come ecstasies
old memories of pleasure
ancient histories of pain.
Yet if we are bold,
love strikes away the chains of fear
from our souls.

We are weaned from our timidity
In the flush of love's light
we dare be brave
And suddenly we see
that love costs all we are
and will ever be.

Yet it is only love
which sets us free
- Maya Angelou

Maya Angelou

Writer,
producer,
performer,
professor



Maya Angelou was born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1928. As a young woman, she joined Martin Luther King, Jr. and other leaders to establish Civil Rights organizations and work for equality for African-Americans. She was devastated when King was assassinated on April 4, 1968, which also happened to be her birthday. To begin dealing with her grief, she wrote the first of six autobiographical volumes, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings. The book won international acclaim, and she went on to become a successful writer, producer, actor and teacher. In 2010, President Barack Obama announced that Angelou would receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States.

Word scramble!

Unscramble the letters to form the word that completes the sentence.

1. Angelou is a highly trained dancer who studied and performed with famed African-American choreographer Alvin _____. EYILA
2. One of her books of poetry, *Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'Fore I Diiie*, was nominated for a _____ Prize. ZEULIRPT
3. Angelou recited her poem, "On the Pulse of Morning," at the _____ ceremony for President Bill Clinton. TIOAUNINRAGU

3. INAUGURATION

2. PULITZER

1. AILEY

celebratory

